

applying high frequency voltage to the active electrode and the return electrode such that an electrical current flows from the active electrode, through the body structure in the region of the target site, and to the return electrode through the current flow path.

Sub B1 23. (Once Amended) A method for applying energy to a target site on a patient body structure comprising:

providing an active electrode and a return electrode electrically coupled to a high frequency voltage source;

positioning [an] the active electrode [surface] in close proximity to the target site in the presence of an electrically conducting liquid; and

applying a high frequency voltage between the active electrode [surface] and [a] the return electrode [surface], the high frequency voltage being sufficient to vaporize the liquid in a thin layer over at least a portion of the active electrode [surface] and induce the discharge of energy from the vapor layer.

24. (Once Amended) The method of claim 23 wherein the active electrode [surface] comprises an electrode array including a plurality of isolated electrode terminals.

A3 29. (Once Amended) The method of claim 24 wherein the active electrode [surface] includes at least two electrode terminals.

30. (Once Amended) The method of claim 24 wherein the active electrode [surface] comprises between 4 to 50 electrode terminals.

Sub B6 43. (Once Amended) The method of claim 23 wherein the active electrode [surface] and the return electrode [surface] are spaced apart by a distance in the range from 1 to 10 mm.

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Sub B1 45. (Once Amended) The method of claim 23 wherein the active electrode [surface] and the return electrode comprise a bipolar array of isolated electrode terminals.

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48. (Once Amended) A method for applying energy to a target site on a patient body structure comprising:

providing an active electrode and a return electrode electrically coupled to a high frequency voltage source;

positioning [an] the active electrode [surface] in close proximity to the target site in the presence of an electrically conducting liquid; and

applying a high frequency voltage between the active electrode [surface] and [a] the return electrode [surface], the high frequency voltage being sufficient to impart sufficient energy into the target site to ablate several cell layers of the body structure without causing substantial tissue necrosis beyond the several cell layers.

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52. (Once Amended) A method for applying energy to a target site on a patient body structure comprising:

providing an active electrode and a return electrode electrically coupled to a high frequency voltage source;

positioning [an] the active electrode [surface] in close proximity to the target site in the presence of an electrically conducting liquid; and

applying a high frequency voltage between the active electrode [surface] and [a] the return electrode [surface], the high frequency voltage being in the range from 600 to 1400 volts peak to peak.

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54. (Once Amended) A method for applying energy to a target site on a patient body structure comprising:

providing an active electrode electrically coupled to a high frequency voltage source;

positioning [an] the active electrode [surface] in close proximity to the target site in the presence of an electrically conducting liquid; and